

CALIFORNIA AIR RESOURCES BOARD

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING TO CONSIDER THE APPROVAL OF CALIFORNIA'S REGIONAL HAZE PLAN

The Air Resources Board (ARB or the Board) will conduct a public hearing at the time and place noted below to consider the approval of the California Regional Haze Plan (Plan). At the public hearing, the Board will consider this initial Plan to set goals for improving visibility by 2018 at 29 "Class 1 Areas" in California. If approved, ARB will transmit the Plan to the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) for approval.

DATE: January 22, 2009

TIME: 9:00 a.m. (Pacific Standard Time)

PLACE: California Environmental Protection Agency
Air Resources Board
Byron Sher Auditorium
1001 I Street
Sacramento, California 95814

This item will be considered at a two-day meeting of the Board, which will commence at 9:00 a.m., January 22, 2009, and may continue at 8:30 a.m. on January 23, 2009. This item may not be considered until January 23, 2009. Please consult the agenda for the meeting, which will be available at least 10 days before January 22, 2009, to determine the day on which this item will be considered.

For individuals with sensory disabilities, this document and other related material can be made available in Braille, large print, audiocassette, or computer disk. For assistance, please contact ARB's Reasonable Accommodations/Disability Coordinator at (916) 323-4916 by voice, or through the California Relay Services at 711, to place your request for disability services, or go to <http://www.arb.ca.gov/html/ada/ada.htm>

If you are a person with limited English, and would like to request interpreter services to be available at the Board meeting, please contact ARB's Bilingual Manager at (916) 323-7053 within 7-10 business days prior of the meeting date.

BACKGROUND

The federal Clean Air Act sets a national policy of achieving visibility comparable to natural conditions for the most treasured national lands and scenic areas of the country. In 1999, the U.S. EPA adopted the Regional Haze Rule to guide this process in each state. The Regional Haze Rule sets out a long-term path towards attaining improved visibility, with the goal of achieving visibility that reflects natural conditions by 2064 at

156 of the national parks and wilderness areas across the United States, deemed “Class 1 Areas.” The Regional Haze Rule requires states to establish a series of interim goals to ensure continued progress. This Plan addresses the first interim goal period of 2018 for the 29 “Class 1 Areas” in California.

The Plan sets forth California’s visibility goals and represents California’s element of a multi-state western regional effort to assess the visibility improvement that is expected to occur through 2018. By 2018, visibility is projected to improve in all areas of the West, with the greatest improvements in California due to the extensive nature of California’s air pollution control programs. To document the benefits of these programs for visibility, and to meet the requirements of the Regional Haze Rule, ARB has prepared this Plan for California.

This Plan covers all “Class 1 Areas” statewide and includes the following key elements:

- Baseline and natural visibility conditions
- Base and future year emission inventories
- Long-term control strategy based on already adopted measures
- Best available retrofit technology (BART) analysis
- Consultation with affected states, tribes, and federal land managers
- Reasonable progress goals for 2018
- Future monitoring strategy to assure progress

One of the key elements, the BART analysis, directs the State to evaluate large, older sources from 26 categories to determine whether emission controls should be installed to improve visibility at “Class 1 Areas.” In summary, only one facility was identified as contributing to visibility impairment at one nearby “Class 1 Area,” and needed to install BART-level controls on certain units at the facility pursuant to the Regional Haze Rule.

PROPOSED ACTION

The Plan meets applicable federal requirements. Staff is recommending that the Board approve the Plan, as well as the emission inventory, long-term strategy, reasonable progress goals, and BART analysis, and direct staff to forward the Plan to U.S. EPA.

In compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), an environmental impact analysis has been prepared and is provided as chapter 10 of the Plan. This document is being circulated through the State Clearinghouse for agency review and comment. The Board will consider approval of the Plan and adoption of the environmental document concurrently.

PUBLIC PROCESS AND AVAILABILITY OF DOCUMENTS

ARB staff will present a summary of the Plan in an oral presentation at the meeting. Copies of the Plan may be obtained from the Board's Public Information Office, 1001 “I” Street, First Floor, Environmental Services Center, Sacramento, California

95814, (916) 322-2990. The Plan may also be obtained from ARB's internet site at <http://www.arb.ca.gov/planning/reghaze/reghaze.htm>.

Interested members of the public may also present comments orally or in writing at the meeting, and in writing or by e-mail before the meeting. To be considered by the Board, written comments, not physically submitted at the meeting, must be received **no later than 12:00 noon, January 21, 2009, the day before the meeting begins**, and addressed to the following:

Postal mail: Clerk of the Board, Air Resources Board
1001 I Street, Sacramento, California 95814

Electronic submittal: <http://www.arb.ca.gov/lispub/comm/bclist.php>

Facsimile submittal: (916) 322-3928

Please note that under the California Public Records Act (Gov. Code, § 6250 et seq.), your written and oral comments, attachments, and associated contact information (e.g., your address, phone, email, etc.) become part of the public record and can be released to the public upon request. Additionally, this information may become available via Google, Yahoo, and any other search engines.

The Board requests, but does not require 30 copies of any written submission. Also, ARB requests that written and e-mail statements commenting on the Plan be filed at least 10 days prior to the meeting so that ARB staff and Board members have time to fully consider each comment. Further inquiries regarding this matter should be directed to Tina Suarez-Murias, Air Pollution Specialist, at (916) 323-1495, or by email to csuarezm@arb.ca.gov.

CALIFORNIA AIR RESOURCES BOARD

/s/

James N. Goldstene
Executive Officer

Date: December 5, 2008